The Carolina Farmer

★ NORTH CAROLI ELECTRIC MAGAZINE

BULK TANK MILK

Should farmers get a premium for it?

DECEMBER, 1956

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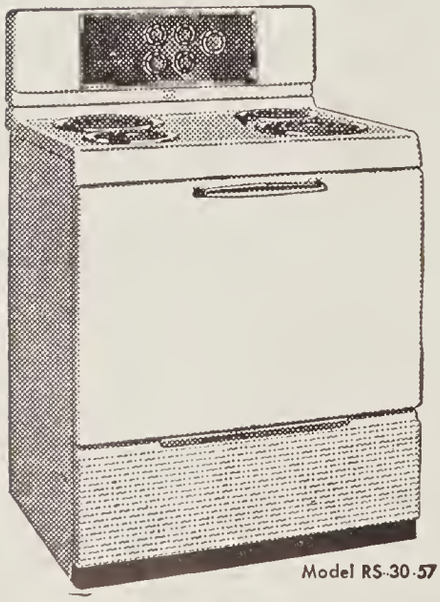

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the Carolina Farmer

DECEMBER, 1956

Volume 11 Number 12

8

J. C. BROWN, JR., Editor

REBEKAH RIVERS, Assistant Editor

LYNN BRUNSON, Editorial Assistant

THIS MONTH CF goes to dairy leaders, processors, and farmers themselves to answer the question, "Should producers get a premium for bulk tank milk?" The question is discussed on page 14 . . . Governor Hodges gives his opinion that farm people can help promote rural business on page 5 . . . The story of a unique Christmas enterprise conducted by a Pender County farmer is found on page 8 . . . Page 13 presents ideas for Christmas gifts from the shelves of your electric appliance dealers . . . and little girl readers are presented a bevy of Christmas dolls on page 19.

THE COVER — Ralph Mills, Jr.'s photo of the snow-laden pines atop Mt. Mitchell seems an appropriate Christmas card greeting to CF readers. May your Christmas be as glistening as the sun on these silver branches, and your New Year as solid as the mountain on which they stand.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

TARHEEL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 1699 • RALEIGH, N. C.

WILLIAM T. CRISP, Executive Manager

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A spirit of Christ to you too

LATE YESTERDAY they finished stringing the Christmas decorations along Fayetteville Street, and our soul was as bleak as the chill evening dusk.

All day long, we'd been haunted by a picture in the morning paper. It was of a child who lay dying in a Budapest street. In her eyes was the bewildered look of hurt children everywhere; in her arms was a rifle.

As death closed out her real world, we hope she had a childish vision of tanks with stars and stripes flying from them, of brave free armies of tall men marching down the street to turn the tide of battle and crush the hated bully. We pray that she died with the child's confidence that the good guys always win.

We hope the dimness of the evening hid us well from the pleading eyes of her playmates, and that the millions of words of encouragement our country had spoken to oppressed children everywhere were recognized for what they were. We hope that foolish youngsters in Hungary didn't read a promise of action into them. We hope that they hadn't been persuaded to rash battle by our own historical example, for that was set a long time ago when an impractical dream of freedom was enough to make a man fight.

WHAT PRACTICAL, intelligent nation would risk an atomic attack for the preservation of an ideal in 1956? Why, it would be akin to nailing yourself to a cross, and people have come a long way from that kind of thing.

They've come a long way, in fact, from the time 17 years ago when a couple of foolish democracies told a lawless German lecher that he couldn't ravish every country that struck his fancy, and staked their lives on it; a long way from such a bothersome place as Korea, where we were bold enough to call the hand of another international gangster before he sneaked a royal flush from the bottom of the deck.

We've progressed from Crusades in Europe to words that lead only to the brink of war, not into one, as every tyrant knows by now.

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, but the price of freedom remains about where it has always been. Until Hungary entered the market, it looked like there were no buyers.

The price of peace has reverted to the good old days, and the diplomatic pronouncements we hear have a familiar ring: "Peace in our time" and "peace at any price" echo from our childhood.

We hope the price isn't too many children who die as uselessly as if run over by a drunken driver; as surely as if their blood were spilled by the blast of a hydrogen bomb.

We don't have the nerve to wish them a Merry Christmas, but we pray that the Spirit of Christ will continue to live in the hearts of sick and lonely Hungarians who bury their dead children this Holy Day, and may it also spread westward and embolden a nation to live up to its heritage—a heritage that is inseparable from honor and Christian sacrifice.

Let Them Know

As reported on page 10, three North Carolina farm organizations — the Grange, the Farm Bureau and Tarheel Electric Membership Association—have registered strong support of the rural telephone cooperatives in their fight to protect their service areas from invasion by phone companies.

We hope the members of the forthcoming General Assembly will take serious note of these developments and provide the cooperatives with much-needed legislation. In the meanwhile, it will be helpful if cooperatives' members throughout the state make it their business to see that our legislators are apprised of the facts before they ever come to Raleigh.

FARMING

SECRETARY BENSON announced a cut of 20 per cent in flue-cured acreage for '57, and apologized for doing so. At that, the slice was smaller by 5 per cent than most authorities figured it would be, and probably not enough to bring the tobacco situation back to good health. North Carolina tobacco leaders spent the month preceding Benson's announcement in groping for new answers to the surplus problem, but they could grasp only straws. Biggest talk was of putting restrictions on poundage and spacing, but Congress must approve such action, and it doesn't convene until January.

Bill Humphries, the News & Observer's farm editor who has covered all sides of the tobacco problem for the past three years, pointed out the other day that administration and legislation can solve only the problem of supply. Part of the trouble, he explained, stems from production of a quality of tobacco the market doesn't want. Only the grower can correct that.

THERE'S DISAGREEMENT over the good that might come from poundage and spacing restrictions. To restrict poundage would penalize the grower who's doing the best job, and minimum spacing can be overcome to some extent by tall-growing varieties. Tall varieties, and close spacing, tend to contribute to a poor-quality leaf, and Commodity Stabilization Corporation has revealed that it intends to penalize pale, slick tobacco by severely reducing supports on it.

Faced with a reduction in acreage, farmers can probably best make up the loss by improving the quality—not reducing it through such practices as close spacing—and putting some tobacco land in Soil Bank.

UNWELCOME GUEST: An insidious weed has been discovered in the United States for the first time, and it picked North Carolina for its pioneering. The weed is called Striga lutea, or witchweed. The parasitic plant interferes with root growth of corn and other members of the grass family, and is capable of alarming destruction.

In tests conducted by Minnesota scientists, gilts fed a 14.3 per cent protein ration during pregnancy raised 92 per cent of their pigs to weaning age. Gilts getting only 10.7 per cent protein weaned only 77 per cent.

USDA HAS FOUND a totally-effective treatment for cecal coccidiosis in chicks. It consists of feeding 100 grams of aurcomycin per ton of feed with 0.125 per cent sulfamethazine. None of the chicks given this treatment died. An untreated check group suffered 43 per cent mortality. The treated chicks made better gains than the surviving untreated ones.

MORE CAPITAL: Two State College economists, Gwyn Sutherland and Ed Bishop, have found that most North Carolina farms could use a little more investment capital. Taking a typical small commercial farm (28 acres of cropland) in the Southern Piedmont, they discovered that the operator could increase his income eight times by increasing his investment only 3½ times.

"Kaiser Aluminum irrigation pipe lasts twice as long"

says Charles Hansen, Stratford, Washington

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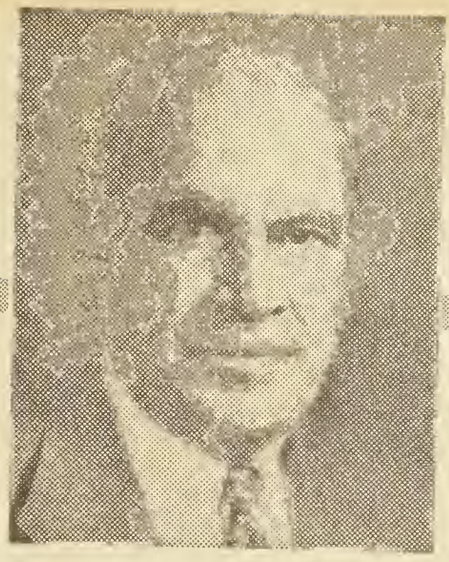
In the Opinion *of*



LUTHER H. HODGES

Governor of North Carolina

FARM PEOPLE CAN HELP PROMOTE RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

IT IS MOST encouraging to note the increasing interest among the rural electric cooperatives of North Carolina in the over-all development of our State. All of our people, rural as well as urban, have a stake in the efforts being made to give our State an economy well balanced between agriculture and industry. Through this approach, we can make great strides in increasing our per capita income.

Rural business development is badly needed to meet the demands of a growing population and an expanding State. I understand that North Carolina's 32 rural electric cooperatives are already serving over 200 rural industries, ranging in size from one manufacturer employing over a thousand people to the small independent business with three or four employees. I am grateful also that several of the cooperatives have purchased stock in the Business Development Corporation of North Carolina which was set up for the worthy purpose of furnishing venture capital to qualified small industries and businesses.

Area groups such as the Northwest North Carolina Development Association, the Capital Area Development Association, Incorporated, and the recently formed Southeastern Area Development Association offer great opportunities for everyone to join in on specific development efforts. The Small Industries Section of the Department of Conservation and Development has been hard at work on the organization of food processing plants which are badly needed in many rural areas.

Food processing is a major industrial activity in which agriculture has a direct stake. Marketing and processing of our agricultural products is just as important today, if not more so, than production of these products. We must do more in North Carolina than grow more products which are shipped to other areas and other States to be processed, marketed and sold.

To encourage industrial development, whether locally financed or from the outside, requires an atmosphere of understanding, cooperation and teamwork among all concerned. In this age of decentralization in industry, there is a great future for industrial development in our 100 counties served by a great network of State and rural roads. I urge everyone to do his part in working diligently and unselfishly for the sound, progressive development of North Carolina.

Luther H. Hodges

This column is designed to bring our readers a responsible opinion on matters of concern to them. You may or may not agree with the ideas expressed here, but we feel this is an opinion you can respect. It is not necessarily the opinion of the editor on this subject.

TIPS from the VET

By DR. J. W. BAILEY

The other day we had a letter requesting information on a new swine disease called "salmonellosis". The writer was a little surprised to find that it was just a fancy name for an old disease he knew as necrotic enteritis or "necro." The unfamiliar name is derived from the fact that the disease is caused by germs of the Salmonella species.

Attacks are made worse when affected swine are infested with roundworms, and outbreaks can evidently sometimes be "triggered" by the use of virus in vaccination against cholera. Poor feeding practices, damp quarters, and filthy surroundings also encourage attacks and help spread the disease. This is because the germs are given off in manure, and clean animals are then infected through the eating and drinking of contaminated material.

Scouring and loss of weight may be noticed as early as two weeks of age, but symptoms usually appear suddenly in pigs weighing 40 to 50 pounds. Suckling pigs huddle together in the bedding, feel hot, refuse to eat or suck, but will often drink water. A severe watery diarrhea is usually an outstanding symptom, and the manure may contain shreds of tissue or clots of blood. Older animals may appear perfectly normal outside of being affected with a diarrhea, but checking with a thermometer will often show some of them to be running temperatures up to 106 degrees. The temperatures may return to normal in a few days, but animals often remain as "poor doers" and continue to lose weight while literally "e a t i n g their heads off." Many of these runty pigs develop a scurfy skin, and show evidence of pneumonia by coughing and rapid breathing. The disease may take either an acute course that causes many deaths or a chronic form that results in few deaths but many unprofitable pigs.

A diagnosis is definitely made only through the elimination of diseases producing similar symptoms, some of which may exist in combination with necro in the same pigs. During the early stages an outbreak may resemble cholera, influenza, erysipelas, transmissible gastro-enteritis, and various other ailments.

No single treatment can be recommended, since this is dependent on existing conditions, locality, and predisposing causes. A diet consisting entirely of corn or oats will need to be supplemented with other feeds, and possibly with vitamins and minerals. The diarrhea will often be helped by the use of arsonilates, and particularly "hot" cases by sulfas and penicillin in combination with a ration containing a high level of antibiotics. When swine are badly infested with worms, it will usually be advisable to worm them with one of the piperazine compounds before any kind of medical treatment is started.

Although many effective drugs are available for treatment nowadays, preventive measures are still the most practical means of controlling necro. Accordingly, most owners will save m o n e y by observing the following "don'ts":

1. Don't feed an all-corn or all-grain diet.
2. Don't feed anything but a balanced ration.
3. Don't overlook the importance of free-choice salt and minerals.
4. Don't fail to provide fresh, clean drinking water.
5. Don't feed off contaminated ground.
6. Don't allow nursing sows to wallow in mudholes.
7. Don't keep pigs in filthy lots.
8. Don't fail to provide dry, clean quarters that are warm in winter and well-ventilated in summer.
9. Don't vaccinate pigs when they are in a run-down condition.
10. Don't forget to follow some kind of a program for controlling internal parasites.

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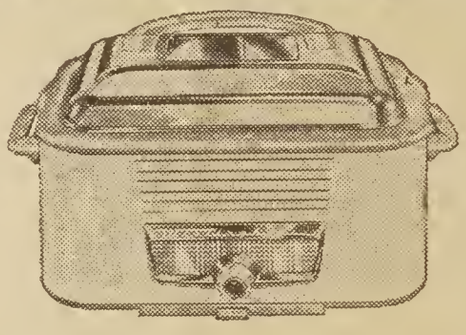

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Controlled Grazing With

Improved Electric Fences

Portable electric fences are being improved to give better service in controlled grazing of pastures and in other farm uses, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

Controlled grazing, as commonly practiced by dairymen, involves fencing off small areas of pasture to be grazed for short periods—usually a day to a week. This system, which encourages the animals to graze the forage in a particular area quickly and uniformly, results in less loss from trampling and contamination. It also allows the grazed area to recover while the livestock are in another area of the pasture.

Electric fences provide a relatively inexpensive means for grazing control. To be entirely satisfactory, however, they must withstand frequent testing by livestock and be readily movable. Also, since the fences may be used from early spring to late fall, they must be effective in all kinds of weather.

Engineers at USDA's Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., are conducting experiments to determine what improvements can be made in electric fences now used. They find that loss of electrical energy under humid or wet conditions is frequently a problem. This loss is caused mainly by surface leakage across insulators, which may partially short-circuit the fence. Such leakage is due to a surface film of moisture and dirt on the insulators.

Conventional porcelain insulators are not altogether satisfactory for use in wet weather or when the humidity is 75 percent or more. Under such conditions, insulators of materials such as polyethylene have about one-tenth the surface leakage of porcelain insulators.

Labor for moving portable fences can be reduced by the use of portable posts, quick wire-attaching equipment, gate hooks, and convenient fence layouts. Posts designed to rest on top of the ground are somewhat more expensive than posts to be put into the ground, but they are not dependent upon soil conditions for stability and ease of moving.

Controllers for electric fences should comply with established safety codes and safe limits of total energy. Controllers which do not meet safety requirements are hazardous to both humans and animals.

Make This A Safe Christmas

"Fires across the nation have killed 23 persons, most of them children, on the eve of the Christmas holiday celebration.

"All but 10 of the fire victims were children eagerly awaiting the excitement of Christmas."

That was last year. Will it happen again this year?

And the saddest thing is that such tragedies often occur around the Christmas holidays—sometimes even around the Christmas tree itself—at the happiest time of the year.

The reason the tree burns so fiercely and so rapidly is because it's filled with pitch and resin—among the most combustible substances known.

What can you do about the tree?

First of all, the National Board of Fire Underwriters suggests that you select a small one. Keep it outdoors until a few days before setting it up. During that time occasionally throw water over it. This will keep it moist, fresh.

When you bring the tree inside, cut the butt slantwise to open the pores, then stand it in a tub of water. Be wary of chemicals or other substances sold for "fire-proofing" trees. In some cases this process is ineffective.

In placing the tree, the National Board advises that you avoid "hot spots" such as those near the fireplace, stove, television set, radiator, or electric bulbs.

Never, warns the National Board, use untreated paper ornaments or untreated cotton batting or gauze for decoration. Cotton and gauze can be made flame-resistant by dipping in a gallon of water mixed with nine ounces of borax and four ounces of boric acid.

Also, use only electric lights, never candles. Be sure, too, that wires are in good condition and bear the UL tag denoting Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., which shows they have been tested for s a f e t y. Frayed electric cords, the National Board points out, are fire hazards.

Except...

Up to two years ago, the look-alike Solomon twins did the same things together. Even had polio at the same time.

Except...

Linda recovered completely.

Sandy didn't.

Even today, after some $1500 in March of Dimes help, she needs braces and crutches to get around.

Except...

Sandy, like thousands of other polio victims, still needs a lot more treatment. She'll get it—as much as she needs. You, who made the Salk vaccine possible, can provide that care. And, what is more, your dimes and dollars will also help train the minds and hands of the professional experts so desperately needed to give it.

Let's Finish the Job!

JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES IN JANUARY

By JOHN COREY

He Helps The N

JACK Batchelor has watched slaughter of wild holly trees by commercial cutters ever since he got out of Cornell University in 1931.

Demand for holly as Christmas decorations in Northern metropolitan areas has mounted so greatly that cutters have practically destroyed the wild variety by over-stripping its branches to supply profitable Yuletide markets.

The excessive cutting has killed most wild holly in the Northeast, first in New Jersey, then Maryland, and more recently in Virginia and North Carolina.

Today, most holly comes from North Carolina, with Duplin County's Rose Hill the leading East coast shipping center.

Jack Batchelor protects young holly plant from rabbits with wire guard.

MANAGE—To Survive!

Rural electric cooperatives stand in a vulnerable position today, and it will take dynamic management to keep them from being slaughtered by the commercial power companies, according to a spokesman for the consumer-owned systems.

Speaking before a 10-state meeting of co-op managers and directors at Asheville last month, Clyde Ellis told of a steady drive to bring federal wholesale power agencies under the influence of public officials who place the interests of commercial power companies before the interests of the farmer.

Ellis, general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association which held its Region I meeting at Asheville, said unfriendly interests wish to raise wholesale power rates to co-ops, eliminate the element of competition the co-ops provide, and cripple both rural electrics and municipal systems.

He pointed out that the rural electric co-ops, since they operate in high-cost service areas, depend upon the protection of their non-profit status to exist and continue to serve isolated areas. Puntive income tax equivalents levied against the co-ops could weaken or destroy them.

"Our taxes are already exhorbitant in many areas," he observed.

If the rural electrics are weakened or destroyed, Ellis declared, the ultimate effect will be felt on quality of service, power rates, cost of extension and improvements, and in many other ways.

"Only about three years ago, the president of a big Ohio power company said his company was losing money on its rural lines," he reported. "It serves in a good farming area. How then do the commercial power companies serve in the rural areas?"

Ellis answered that they subsidize rural rates out of city revenues, and they do so because they consider themselves in competition with the rural electric co-ops.

Some commercial utilities may claim they could reduce rates on a rural system, he charged, but in the long run every single cost that enters into the electric bill would be increased by the cost-plus monopoly and so would the rates to farmers.

He added that the rural electric cooperatives help the farmer protect himself against the cost-price squeeze, and declared that nothing would be more shortsighted than for him to yield up control of one of his basic costs of production to absentee-owned corporations.

The farmers' electric systems can be preserved, and the continuing objective of low-cost power reached, Ellis said, through "balanced, dynamic cooperative management."

In a consumer-owned power system, he added, the responsibility of management stems from the people served —the owners. "They have responsibility of attending meetings and participating as member-owners," Ellis declared.

Another speaker, REA Administrator

on Decorate Christmas

The tree butchery disturbed Batchelor through the years. As a U.S. Department of Agriculture plant expert, he foresaw the possibility of holly tree extinction in the East.

To counteract such an outcome, he urged farmers to cultivate holly whenever feasible.

And when Batchelor got out of the Army Air Force in 1946, he went into holly growing himself.

He knew there'd be profit in the tree. Demand still exceeds supply. But holly is not an overnight money-maker. Five to 10 years must pass before trees give marketable yields—a long wait for cash.

Batchelor and his new bride, Mattie, just out of the Army Nurse Corp, took bold steps in 1946. They left the job in which he'd made a name for himself over a 12-year period, and headed for a barren and remote Pender County farm in North Carolina to grow holly.

The Batchelors made the trip down by auto, accompanied by all their earthly possessions, consisting primarily of two sets of treasured family chinaware and 150 pots of selected holly specimens from France, England, Scotland, Ireland, China and the United States.

Among the plants was a special variety — a cross of the best Chinese holly. Batchelor had developed the hybrid in 1939, and named it Shangri-la. He anchored his future on the plant which he considered holly supreme.

The couple purchased a homestead near Penderlea because its climate and soil are ideally suited for holly culture.

Batchelor and his wife, both former military officers, immediately plunged into recruit chores at their new home. They scrubbed its smoke-dirtied rooms from top to bottom, and painted them completely.

The pair quickly set out the holly plants on a one-acre test plot.

To bring in immediate income, Batchelor planted strawberries and blueberries between rows of his baby hollies.

The arrangement, called hillculture, worked. The strawberries garnered $600 the first year, and up to $1,200 in succeeding seasons.

To clean out grass around the fruit bushes and hollies, Batchelor sent in a flock of 8 Taloosa geese. The beautiful flock reduced his labor bill of hand hoeing some 75 per cent, he says, and today 60 geese have joined the ranks.

First holly cutting was made at the end of the fifth year. More important to Batchelor, however, was the success of his new hybrid, Shangri-la.

Its leaves grew small and finely-textured, radiating glossy, dark green

(Continued, Page 17)

David A. Hamil, warned the cooperatives that they "cannot afford to sit back and talk of the glories of the past 20 years."

A new generation is growing up that has no direct relationship with the early and hard problems of rural electrification, he pointed out.

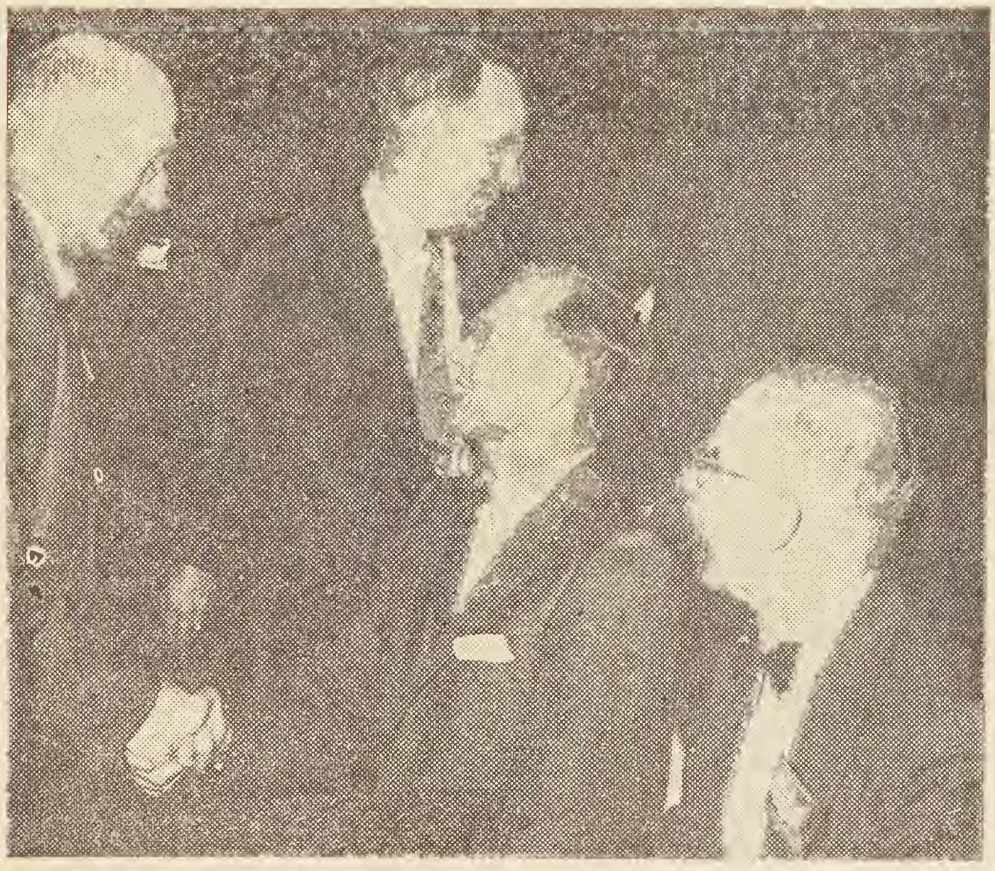
"Small business and light industry are moving to rural areas. Towns and cities are expanding. We know we will have more people in rural areas but they will not be farmers.

"The cooperative," he declared, "will hold little interest for them as such. They will be interested in what the modern farmer needs and expects from his cooperative—good electric service at low cost."

Hamil said he considered it proper for the rural electrics to serve industrial, commercial, and other non-agricultural loads that develop within their established service areas.

"In enacting the rural electrification law, the Congress did not differentiate between farm and other types of loads."

The Administrator assured the directors and managers that REA is "proud to serve as your banker."



REA Administrator Hamil (seated) greets NRECA delegate at Asheville meeting. TEMA's Bill Crisp is second from left.

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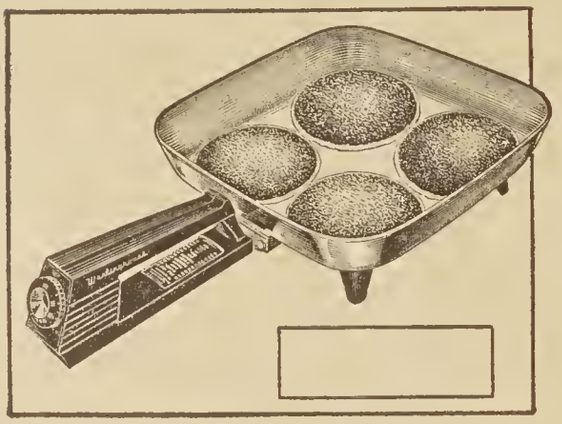

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Farm Groups Heed Co-ops' Call for Help

NORTH Carolina's major farm organizations—the Grange and Farm Bureau Federation—went on record last month supporting rural telephone cooperatives in their fight to protect their service areas from invasion by commercial telephone companies.

The State Grange Convention, meeting in Greensboro, said, "We particularly deplore the fact that our State Utilities Commission, by decisions rendered in the past six months, has refused to accord the minimum protection to the territorial integrity of newly formed rural telephone cooperatives which is absolutely necessary if they are to succeed."

The policy statement referred to recent cases in which the Commission ordered two phone companies, Central and Lee, to extend service to persons living inside three cooperatives' area boundaries, though the boundaries had previously been agreed to by both the companies and the co-ops.

The Grange policy noted that, though the "rural telephone program in North Carolina is now 11 years old, only 17 per cent of our farms now have access to this vital service. North Carolina stands 46th in the nation in this respect."

The Grange was sharply critical of the position expressed by the Utilities Commission. The Commission "has taken the position that the private telephone industry in North Carolina is rapidly approaching the time when it can provide all the remaining rural telephone service needs," the Grange policy stated. "While we do not take issue with this view, we seriously question a policy by our Utilities Commission which, while jeopardizing the existence and growth of rural telephone cooperatives, does not simultaneously call for immediate and full expansion by telephone companies into rural areas."

The Grange called upon the General Assembly of 1957 "to enact such measures as are necessary to afford adequate protection of the territories of rural telephone cooperatives." It also urged the Utilities Commission to "adopt and enforce regulations for the private telephone industry consistent with the same objective."

The Farm Bureau, meeting in Charlotte, adopted a similar but much shorter policy statement. "We support the efforts of telephone membership cooperatives to protect their service areas as a means of developing a long range program for providing area coverage telephone service," the Bureau said.

The policies of the Grange and Farm Bureau left little doubt that legislation will be introduced in the 1957 legislature aimed at giving telephone cooperatives legal protection from phone company invasions of their service areas.

Just what form such legislation will take is now being studied by cooperative officials.

Meanwhile, Superior Court trial of an appeal taken by a telephone cooperative from one of the Commission orders is still pending. Randolph Telephone Membership Corporation, whose service area will be invaded by Central Telephone Company under one Commission order, took its case to the higher court in September.

The case was scheduled for trial last month, but illness of the Commission's attorney, John Hill Paylor, caused its postponement.

Two other cooperatives, Surry and Wilkes, did not appeal similar orders for violation of their territories. Surry, however, has extended service into the very section of Stokes County which the Commission ordered Lee Telephone Company to serve. Following the Commission's decision, some 80 per cent of the people affected informed the Surry cooperative that they still desired—and were anxious to receive—the cooperative's service instead of Lee's.

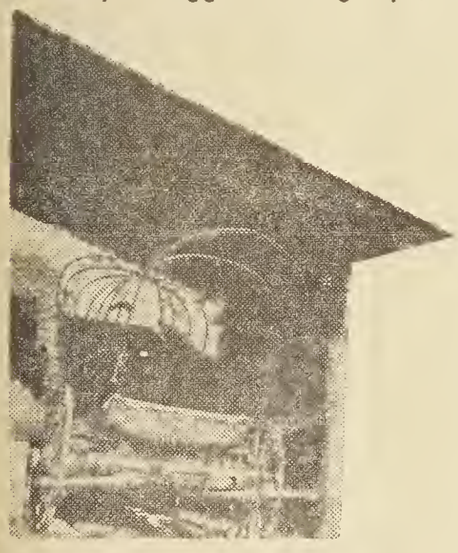
As a result, it is doubtful that Lee will extend its system into that particular area at all.

Representatives of the rural electric cooperatives have already registered their full support of the telephone co-ops in their fight for survival.

THE KOONTZ'S A Farm-Size Family

Marshall Koontz pours molasses from container whose history is traced to a government distillery that once stood nearby.

Nissen wagon once carried Koontz to Salisbury on egg marketing trips.



It's a warm, red and green land that billows out from Mocksville, and as you follow the co-op lines toward Davie Academy, you expect to find friendly people who know the good things of life. But you don't quite expect Marshall Koontz.

He has the good life in such abundance that it leaves you a little breathless to visit him, and as refreshed as a glass of Brushy Mountain cider. From Koontz you can learn a-new that farming is more than a business; as they say, it's a way of life—an especially pleasant one here.

From the front porch to the feed lot, Koontz's place is a warm mixture of museum and modern farm, where things of value are carefully preserved, and used if handy. If not, they're preserved anyway.

As you drive beneath the ancient oaks that shade the Koontz home, you're apt to be startled when you first glimpse the front porch—built big enough for a farm-size family, which is what Koontz has. Running the length of the porch is a row of rocking chairs —about a dozen identical, freshly-painted rocking chairs. On a Sunday, they're all in use.

The Koontz family is best-known for its porch full of rocking chairs, and tender, tasty sugar-cured hams. It was the hams that caused *Carolina Farmer* to seek Koontz out on a golden November day, but a chance glimpse into a disappearing art overshadowed the primary purpose.

Koontz and his wife were making molasses, and as he skimmed the cooking syrup with a century-old copper scoop, he spoke of days when molasses mills were aplenty, and a cane-grinding was good reason for a celebration. Now Koontz has perhaps the last mill in Davie County, and molasses making is strictly business—a declining one.

Talking as he poured hot syrup from a five-gallon can his father used at the federal distillery which once stood nearby, Koontz noted that two years ago he made 700 gallons; last year 400; and this year only 200.

Molasses-making is just a sideline, but Koontz has so many sidelines it is hard to spot his chief enterprise. He sawmills, grows grain, corn, and a little cotton, and sells market eggs, hogs, hams, and milk. It all mounts up.

"If you don't do something besides cotton-patch and tobacco-patch, you're out of luck," Koontz mused.

He's a big man who moves fast, and his observations come just as fast. They're likely to skip from the changes electricity has made on his farm to his boyhood trips in a fabled Nissen wagon.

The wagon still waits beneath a shed near the mill, a stout relic to remind its owner of the painstaking craftsmanship of a less urgent day.

As a child, Koontz made overnight trips in the wagon to Salisbury where

(Continued on Page 24)

Mrs. Koontz shows Wyona Johnson prize ham. Mrs. Johnson is electrification advisor for Davie Electric Co-op.

If you've had trouble getting turkeys past the poult stage, listen to this grower

he knows how to Keep 'Em Alive

By FRED MORGAN

D. C. Griggs and healthy friend

A Stanly County turkey grower, D. C. Griggs, has achieved a record of 98 per cent liveability among his flocks during the past six or seven years.

The statewide turkey liveability rate is around 85 per cent.

More turkeys raised means more money in the pocket, of which any grower is well aware.

One year, Griggs raised even more turkeys than he bought, thus ringing up an almost incredible liveability rate of over 100 per cent in his flocks that year. It happened because the hatchery sent two extra poults per hundred and Griggs managed to raise a few of these "extra" birds along with all his "regulars."

His turkeys are aimed at the Thanksgiving and Christmas markets, one portion of them coming off about a month ahead of the other.

The Griggs, Mr. and Mrs. Griggs and their daughter, Patsy, have been in the turkey business on their 100-acre farm near Albemarle for the past 10 years and on a rather large scale since 1948.

They started out with 12 birds the first year, subsequently increasing to 500 and 1,000. A high of 2,700 birds was reached one year.

For the last three years, they have leveled off at about 2,300 turkeys which is about all they can adequately house and care for.

To achieve his remarkable liveability record, Griggs carries out a strict, round-the-clock sanitation program from the time the birds arrive in an air-conditioned station wagon in May until they leave 25 weeks later aboard four or five tractor-trailers.

They maintain a turkey "hospital" in the barn loft for the isolation and treatment of every ailing bird until he no longer poses a threat to the flock.

If a bird dies and the cause is debatable, an autopsy is performed and the opinions of the county agent and other professional people are sought. In the event a question remains, the turkey carcass is shipped to State College in Raleigh for a complete diagnostic report.

To combat the various turkey diseases with the latest methods has meant an education in this specialized field for the Griggs and they are constantly boning up on new techniques.

Their medication bill has run as high as $400 to keep the 2,300 birds happy and disease-free during the 25-week growing-off period.

All the Griggs turkeys are raised in confinement.

Range-rearing was tried for two or three years but abandoned in preference to the confinement plan.

"Confinement rearing is easier, cheaper, and better all around," Griggs says.

The first crop of day-old poults arrives about mid-May; the second about four weeks later. Scrubbed, scoured, and disinfected pens await them. Feed and water is out and ready. The electric and gas brooders are glowing. One of the first jobs is de-snouting the poults to prevent fights and cannibalism. The poults are fed a special starting feed, figured at four pounds each. After a few weeks, the diet is switched to growing-feed and grain.

At 10 weeks, the poults are de-beaked for the first time and vaccinated against fowlpox. Five weeks later, the birds are de-beaked again and the toms separated from the hens.

"The first four or five weeks is the critical period," Griggs says. "You have to keep the young birds dry and warm and contented."

After the birds are old enough to use the self feeders attached to the outside of the pens, they have their choice of commercial feed or grain.

Lights are left burning in the pens at night to stimulate night feeding and to prevent huddling and stampeding. If a rabbit, possum, or some other animal frightens the birds, it is a very real likelihood they will stampede and kill themselves.

For the last six weeks prior to market, they are fed on a fattening grain supplement.

They are sold on foot to processing plants in North and South Carolina.

The average weight at the end of the 25-week period is 29 to 30 pounds.

The Griggs have grown-out birds weighing as much as 38 pounds.

One big Tom weighed 27½ pounds at 22 weeks of age.

Turkeys are greedy eaters and Mr. Griggs estimates that as his 2,300 birds approach maturity they eat 7,000 pounds of commercial feed and 5,000 pounds of grain each week.

The longest day of the year for the

(Continued, Page 17)

hang the Christmas tree with

Small Appliances

TO INSURE a sparkle in the eyes of the ladies on your Christmas list, give them a gift of long-lasting value—a shiny, new electric appliance. Your local appliance dealer is well-stocked this season with small appliances to fit the needs and desires of any woman . . . and the 1956 small appliances are not only practical gifts, but they're attractive, too.

For a gift of comfort for your ladies, choose from the following: sun lamps, hair dryers, heat massagers, electric blankets, electric sheets.

For gifts of efficiency, select a mixer, a vacuum cleaner, an electric skillet, percolator, a steam iron, electric scissors, or an electric knife sharpener.

One gift for the entire family can also be bought from your appliance dealer: a television set, a radio, a record player, or a tape recorder.

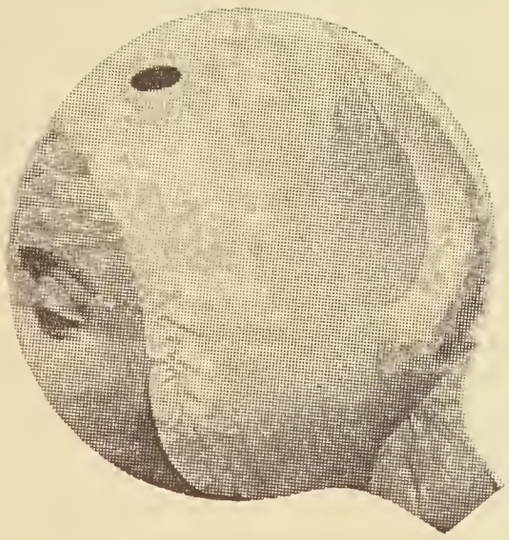
And, ladies, you, too, can shop for the men on your list at your electric appliance stores. Any of them would love an electric shaver, a good reading lamp, electric tools for the shop; and some of them might enjoy an electric ice cream freezer so they won't have to use all that elbow-grease next summer. The kids would like an electric corn popper.

If you wish, now's a fine time to buy that major appliance your family has wanted for such a long time: the clothes dryer, the dishwasher, the ironer.

Whatever your desires, there's something in the electric line, from a train to a freezer, to please every member of your family.

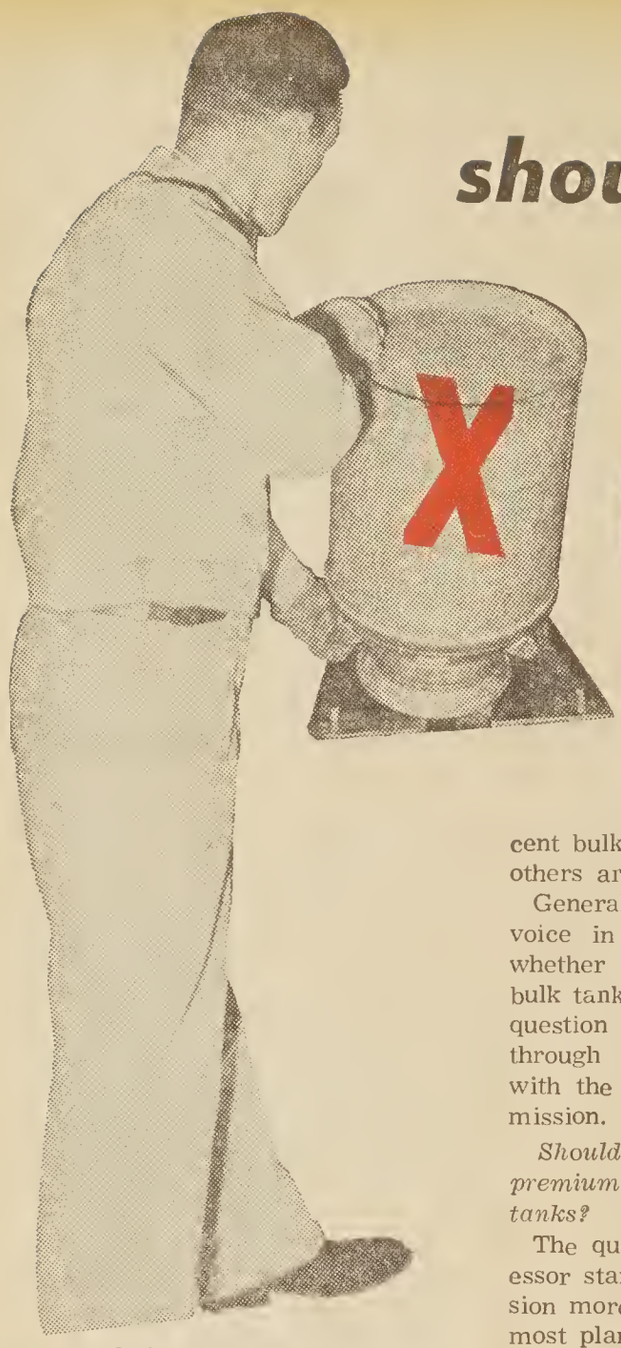
Electric Mixer

Steam Iron



Electric Hairdryer

Electric Skillet



should the producer get A Premium for Bulk Tank Milk?

By J. C. Brown, Jr.

A revolutionary change in dairy farming has North Carolina milk producers cutting through a jungle of opposing "facts" in search of answers to some highly important questions.

The big change is the rapid switch from can operations to bulk milk tanks, and it's a change that is beyond the farmer's control. He's going to have to make it sooner or later. The question foremost in his mind is, "Will it pay me to put out $1,500 to $3,500 to make the change?"

The answer may well determine whether or not he stays in the dairy business, for a processor cannot economically mix bulk tank and can collections. Once a plant decides to convert to bulk tank operations, it must demand that all its producers install tanks by a given date. So far, 18 of the state's 65 processing plants have announced plans for converting. One large plant has already gone to 100 per cent bulk tank collections, and several others are nearing the point.

Generally, the milk producer has no voice in answering the question of whether or not his processor adopts bulk tank collections. But there is one question that he can help answer—through group bargaining power or with the help of the N. C. Milk Commission. That is:

Should processors pay producers a premium for milk collected from bulk tanks?

The question suggests that the processor stands to profit from the conversion more than the milk producer, but most plants deny this.

To find an answer, *The Carolina Farmer* questioned producers, processors, agricultural economists, and dairy specialists, and studied available reports on the economics of bulk tanks. Here are our conclusions (keep in mind that when we say savings, we mean the difference between can and tank operations):

- The industry as a whole will save money by changing from cans to tanks—about 12 cents a hundred pounds.

- Savings to plants will come largely from eliminating the labor that can operations require. If a plant is now handling cans at low cost, it will save little by switching to tank collections. State College economists and dairy scientists have conducted several studies in North Carolina plants and found the savings to range from zero to 25 cents per hundred weight.

- Saving to the "average" dairyman is likely to be small under the hauling and pricing setup now generally followed in North Carolina. One State College economist calculated that if the "average" Tar Heel dairyman tried to recover his tank cost from the monetary saving it affords, it would take him 43 years.

- Farmers who have installed bulk tanks say they like them and would not return to cans. This includes those who complained that they were forced to buy them.

- *If the processor nets a saving because his producers invest in bulk milk tanks, then the producers should share in it.* The dairyman has not shared in a general rise in the price that housewives pay for milk, and he must bear the weight of his mounting costs. Many farmers cannot stand the added burden of an expensive bulk tank without some increase in price to help them pay for it.

- In most cases, dairymen will save on hauling costs by the switch to every-other-day tank collections. If the processor makes arrangements to haul at cost, as at least one has, the producer should view this as a premium. It may or may not be an adequate one.

A group of Biltmore Dairy Farms' producers has asked the N. C. Milk Commission to answer the premium question. The farmers seek a 35-cent-per-hundred bonus for milk collected from bulk tanks. The commission, after an October hearing, has considered the question in two sessions and

delayed action until it can get more information.

J. V. Whitaker, executive secretary, told *The Carolina Farmer* that the commission would like to see producer and processor reach an agreement, but if they do not, it's within the commission's power to act in the matter.

At Asheville, Biltmore presented evidence to show that the premium wasn't warrented. Its strongest case seems to turn on a study made by Dr. R. B. Redfern. State College dairy scientist, which shows Biltmore can save only 2 cents per hundredweight from its change to tank operations; and on the fact that it is hauling producers' milk at cost.

Some observers were critical of Dr. Redfern's study, on the grounds that he had to base it on records kept by Biltmore. Redfern said he had no reason to doubt the accuracy of the information he used; that the figures supplied by Biltmore seemed in order.

He pointed out that he restricted his study to the can handling operations, where the greatest possible savings can be achieved. Biltmore, he explained, has an unusually efficient receiving room. It receives 3 million pounds of milk a year, using the labor equivalent of 1½ men.

Redfern emphasized that in some other plant the saving might run up to 25 cents per hundredweight, but at Biltmore it was 2 cents per hundred.

In testimony at the Asheville hearing, Biltmore reported that the plant hauled milk at cost, and had saved producers 5 cents to 31 cents per hundred. When conversion is complete, producers will save at least 13 cents, it claimed.

Another State College specialist, Dewey Hennessee, believes the producer should look at such a hauling arrangement as a premium paid to him. An outspoken advocate of sharing the savings from bulk tank operations, Hennessee feels that the dairyman will get little cash reward from a tank unless he has one or more of the following:

1. a need for new equipment anyway.

2. a large herd. The more milk the farmer handles, the more cans he needs. The cost of cans will approach the cost of a bulk tank in a large, high-producing herd.

3. a pipeline milker. The bulk tank is an ideal companion for the pipeline.

(Continued next page)

Haywood Farmer Makes The Most Of Tank By Streamlining Operations

You couldn't find a more enthusiastic farmer to endorse bulk milk tanks than G. C. Palmer, Jr., or one in better shape to enjoy their benefits.

His 500-gallon tank fits neatly into a streamlined milking operation that lets one man milk 35 cows in less than two hours. The Crabtree farmer, who sells his milk to Pet Dairy at Waynesville, bears out what the agricultural economists say—that a pipeline milker and a bulk tank go together.

Palmer has gone a step further than the CIP (cleaned-in-place) milker and tank, and built a parlor-type milking barn. Since completing it last February, his monthly herd average has jumped 100 pounds of milk per cow. If he can get Class I price for it, then the parlor has increased the monthly earning power of each cow by $6.25.

The close tie-in of all the production elements in Palmer's dairy makes it difficult to separate the advantages of the tank from the parlor and pipeline milker, but he believes it's saving him money.

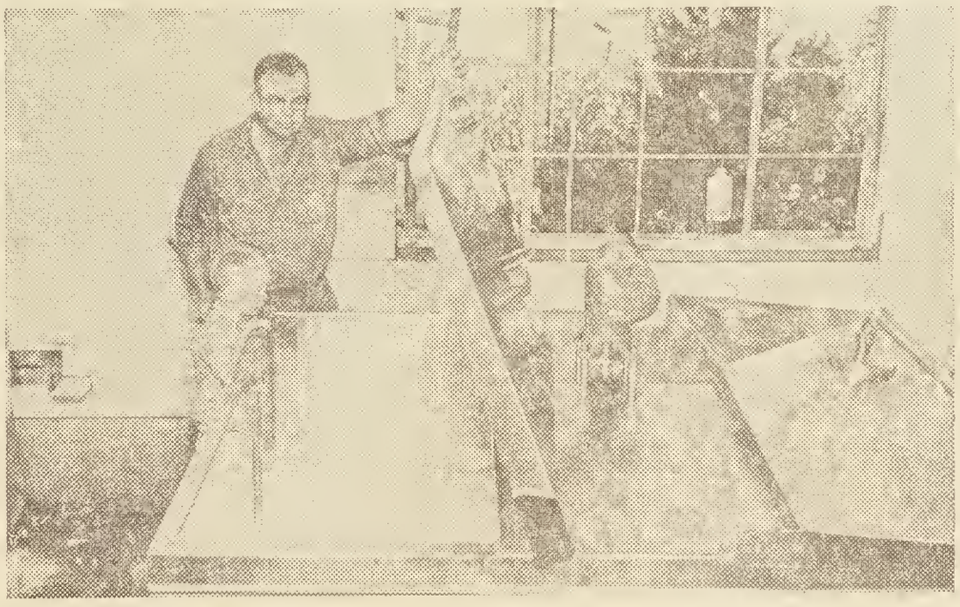
Before he installed his tank in August, Palmer frequently had trouble getting his milk through the quality tests, but no more. "The tank cools the milk fast," he testifies. "By the time I'm through milking, it's down to 32 degrees, and I've never caught the motor running between milkings!"

Best of all, he can clean the tank in the time it used to take him to wash two milk cans, and he doesn't lift a single can. The pipeline takes the milk—about 150 gallons a day—directly from the cow to the tank.

Every two days, a milk tanker owned by the Haywood Milk Producers Cooperative Association backs up to the barn and pumps the milk from Palmer's tank. The co-op hauls it at cost, saving members about 10 cents per hundred pounds.

The milk is sampled for butterfat and quality, and weight is determined right in front of the producer.

Palmer originally had only one objection to bulk milk tanks, and that was their high cost. His rural electric cooperative (Haywood at Waynesville) helped remove that by offering members 4 per cent loans to finance their tanks.



G. C. Palmer, Jr. and son Cecil display bulk tank. A member of Haywood Electric Cooperative, Palmer has as near an all-electric dairy operation as you can get.

A Comparison of Two Types of Tanks*

	Direct Expansion	Ice Bank Type
Original Cost	Usually higher	Usually lower
Energy Required (in K. W. Hours)	Lower	Higher
Size of Compressor and Motor	1 HP per 100 gallons daily capacity	About ½ HP per 100 gallons daily capacity
Compressor Operating Time at Full Capacity	4 to 6 hours per day	16 to 20 hours per day
Number of Motors	Usually 2—One on the Compressor and one on the agitator.	Usually 3—one on Compressor, one on agitator, and one on water circulating pump.
Electrical Wiring Requirements	Larger wire and switches (Present wiring likely to be inadequate)	Smaller wire and switches (Present wiring may be adequate)
Power Supplier Preference	Usually second choice because of larger motors.	Usually first choice because of smaller motors.
Effect of Power Failure	No cooling—However, full cooling takes place as soon as power is restored.	The ice bank provides some cooling.
Milk Freezing	Can happen but is not usually a serious problem.	Not likely to happen.

*From a Circular of the University of Wisconsin.

The pair eliminates all handling of cans and a great amount of labor.

4. milk hauled at cost, or some other premium.

When North Carolina farmers first became aware of bulk tanks, they viewed them as a threat. It meant a big expenditure and little reward for making it. But there's no argument about the merits of the tanks now; producers like them, largely because they eliminate washing cans, and they chill the milk quickly and hold it there; thus the producer has fewer rejects.

This satisfaction, based on convenience, may prove expensive to the producer. F. A. Buchanan, of Pet Dairy Products general office, wrote *The Carolina Farmer* that "our plant has in no way paid a premium to farmers for installing bulk tanks, and at present we have no plan to do so, as it is evident that farmers are highly pleased and well satisfied with their investment in farm bulk tanks to the extent that they must be making satisfactory saving in operation of milk handling."

With the only 100 per cent bulk tank pick-up in the state (at Greensboro), Pet has told producers who sell to its Waynesville plant to install tanks by next April. Many of them have already converted.

The Haywood County Milk Producers Cooperative Association, which sells to Pet and Southern, has bought a tanker, hired a driver, and collects milk at cost to members. James Kirpatrick, president of the association, reports members have cut hauling cost by 10 cents a hundred pounds. An individual hauler couldn't do it and still make a fair profit, he believes.

FINANCING bulk tanks hasn't been the problem many dairymen feared. In at least one case, the producers made the decision to go to bulk tanks, and the availability of financing influenced their decision. This was at Wayne Dairy Cooperative, which is producer-owned. G. B. Cline, manager of Wayne, reports that his board of directors worked out a loan program with Columbia Bank of Cooperatives which allows producers to borrow full cost of tanks at 4 per cent interest and repay in 36 equal installments.

Several rural electric co-ops offer their members 4 per cent finance plans for purchasing bulk tanks. FHA and many banks also have liberal bulk tank financing.

The decision of the Wayne County dairy is evidence that there is an inherent saving in the switch from cans to tanks; its producers share in any added cost or saving at the plant.

"A 100 per cent bulk operation will give some saving as well as free badly needed floor space," Cline feels. With 24 out of 35 producers owning tanks, Wayne is still a dual operation and the plant hasn't made a saving so far.

The biggest saving to farmers has been in hauling expense. The plant purchased the truck and tank, and hauls on a non-profit basis. At present, it charges 15 cents per hundredweight on a 10-mile zone; 20 cents on 20 miles; and 25 cents in excess of 20 miles.

"Even at these prices, we have a saving accruing which will have to be distributed at the end of the year," Cline reported.

Wayne also pays a quality premium bonus of 15 cents per hundred, and the manager believes most of the bulk tank producers will earn it.

He relates that his producers say it is more economical to produce milk in bulk tanks, but he adds that the claim of a higher butterfat test by bulk handling has not been substantiated: independent studies support his observation.

You can find just about what you're hunting for in the "facts" that befog bulk tank handling, and they are likely to be actual facts for a particular plant and a particular producer. Each case deserves a careful study, and if the study reveals that the plant enjoys a substantial saving, it seems only fair that producers share in it.

About the only increases they've shared in since 1947 are costs.

Christmas Holly

(From Page 9)

color. Fat clusters of large, red berries were produced.

Later tests have proved that Shangri-la branches after cutting last up to 14 days in warm rooms without water, while American hollies last only 4 to 5 days. The hybrid also yields three times greater green poundage than American holly, giving it a decided advantage in capturing the Christmas market.

The performance has motivated Batchelor to put 25 acres in Shangri-la. As insurance in case a spring freeze damages his special variety, five acres of the lower-grade-cold-resisting-American holly have been planted.

Holly is a high money-maker. It brings over $1,000 per acre.

Batchelor doesn't want to seem selfish, but his Shangri-las are not for sale. At least not until a pending patent comes through.

The new Tar Heel's love for holly is so great that a few years ago he and Harry Dengler, a forester of the Maryland Extension Service, dreamed of forming a Holly Society of America. Today it's a reality. Over 704 members now belong to the society.

Batchelor discusses his holly orchard in a warm, paternalistic manner. He'll point out a tree's damaged root and sadly comment, as if talking about a human, "this young fellow needs additional nourishment."

He speaks with feeling for the trees rather than lamenting the cost when relating hardships of pestilence, hurricanes, floods and freezes.

Practically a self-made man, husky Batchelor worked his way through Cornell University by operating his own nursery in Ithaca, N. Y.

Graduating with a B.S. Degree in Horticulture, he worked first as landscaping supervisor on Mount Vernon Memorial Highway between Washington, D. C., and Mount Vernon.

He joined the newly-formed Soil Conservation Service in 1934, and was sent to Statesville, N. C., to set up one of the first Soil Conservation Service nurseries in America.

Batchelor was first to use lespedeza plantings on highway shoulders. He pioneered sowing of grass seed for this purpose on the Greensboro-High Point highway in 1934.

He figured how to keep soil from washing into a lake used by the City of High Point for its municipal water supply. Batchelor did it by planting honeysuckle vines and bush alder around the lake's banks.

Mystic association of holly with the Christmas season dates back to the Romans and their festival of Saturnalia, when Romans filled their homes with clusters of holly to give refuge to friendly spirits of the house.

Early Christians, when they succeeded in ousting older gods, retained the custom of decorating their homes with holly boughs.

In medieval and post-medieval times, holly was always associated with Christmas gaiety. Ivy, too, was used, but largely for exterior decoration. It and holly, curiously enough, were believed to be unfriendly.

Ivy was for the outside of the house, where the cold blasts blew, holly for the warm interior where the fire roared and people drew together to celebrate the good tidings heard upon a clear midnight by certain poor shepherds.

Holly was an ideal symbol for Christmas. Its prickly leaves represented the crown of thorns, the red berries symbolized fertility among stock if put in their barns. A young girl, it was believed, would dream of her lover if she slept with a sprig of holly over her bed.

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TURKEYS

(From Page 12)

Griggs is, not the day before Christmas as Patsy used to say, but the day before the turkeys leave for market.

Then comes the big clean-up campaign.

The pens must be cleaned out, hosed down, disinfected, and aired out by sun and wind. The accumulated droppings under the slatted floors of the pens must be removed and hauled away. It makes a potent fertilizer for the fields.

The Griggs are a rigid record-keeping family, believing in keeping the business ledger on their turkey and farming operations up to date at all times. They know to the very penny how the pendulum swings between profit and loss.

For them, the turkey business is not something to get into one year and out of the next year because of a market price slump. To come out successfully, you've got to stick with it through the lean years as well as the fat ones.

Consistency has paid off for them.

LIVE BETTER ELECTRICALLY
"WILLIE WIREDHAND"
IT'S THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND DOWN IN THE DEN··· THERE IS PLENTY OF ACTION, BECAUSE OF THE MEN!!
YOU UNDERSTAND I'LL HAVE TO TRAIN JUNIOR TO RUN IT!
THE LADIES ARE OUT IN THE KITCHEN TO BAKE··· COOKIES AND CANDIES AND CINNAMON CAKE!
THE TREE IS ALL COVERED WITH TINSEL AND LIGHT··· THE TAGS ON THE WIRES ASSURE ALL IS ALL RIGHT!
UL
THIS IS FOR ME!
IT'S REAL COOL!!!
ELECTRIC HEAT PANELS HAVE NO NEED FOR FLUES··· SO THE CHIMNEY IS READY FOR ST. NICK TO USE!
IN THE BARN AND THE POULTRY HOUSE, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO··· THE WORK WAS ALL DONE BY A WIRED HAND OR TWO!!!
WOW! LOOK AT THAT TRAIN!
AND JUNIOR IS TUCKED AWAY, SAFE IN HIS BED··· WITH DREAMS OF THE MORROW FILLING HIS HEAD!!!
SO WITH EVERYTHING DONE IT'S TIME TO SAY HERE MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Christmas Dolls

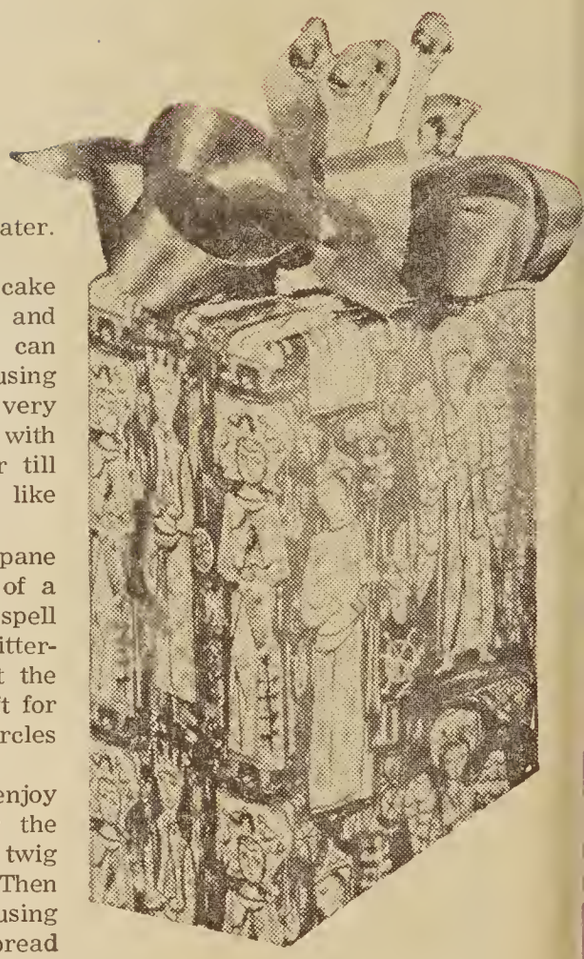
To a world-full of wide-eyed little girls, December means Christmas, and Christmas to those tots means dolls. In modern America, toy manufacturers have let imaginations fly, and dolls have been created to represent everybody from Miss America to Howdy-Doody. And every momma from the past generation will recognize the most famous personality doll of all times—the Shirley Temple doll.

It has not always been true that dolls were made for children—but through the ages, children have made dolls. The earliest dolls are those found in Egyptian tombs of about 1000 B.C. They were called paddle dolls, and were made of flat pieces of wood with the details of the face carved and painted on them. They were always made without legs to keep them from running away.

The oldest American doll is Miss Letitia Penn. She was brought from England by William Penn in 1699 and wears an elaborate English court dress. She could scarcely stand up under the pace of 20th Century life—and most children would be frightened of her, so terrible is the facial expression!

But today's dolls are made to withstand the hearty hugs and kisses of the rambunctious little modern mama—and may Santa bless these little mothers with hosts of toy children on this 1956 Christmas morn.

Christmas creations



This year, let your entire family have an extra gay Christmas by bringing them all into the act. Don't even exclude your little ones—even if their packages are messy and the decorations they add to the tree are unsightly. Decorating the house, planning Christmas windows, dressing the tree—all these are family affairs, and it's up to the homemaker to see that her family feels a real part of the holiday preparations.

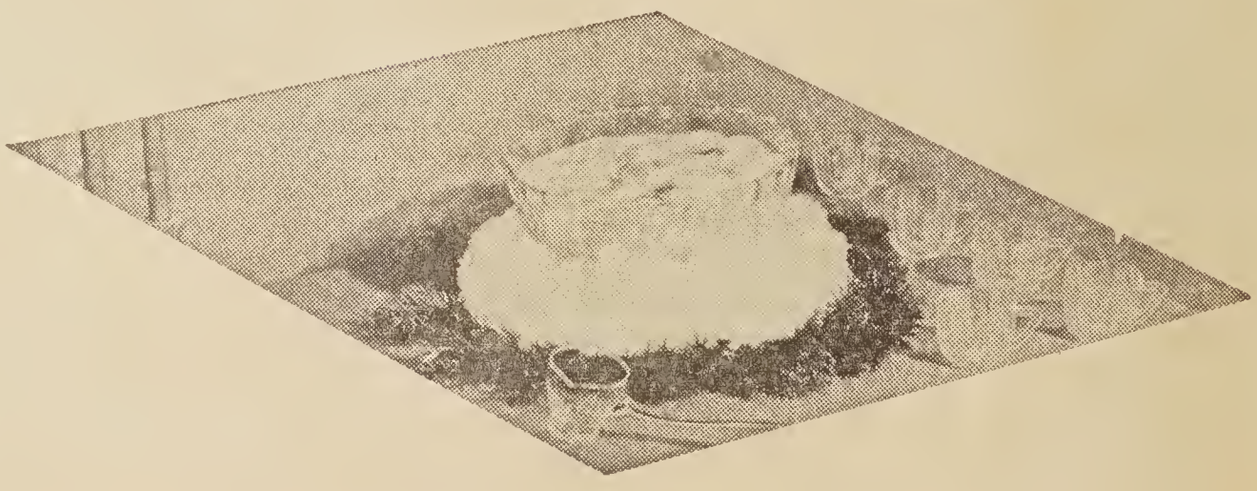
Each December brings new ideas for decorating the house, wrapping packages, and celebrating the Christmas holiday. And it seems that this year all the new ideas are so simple and so inexpensive.

Take soap suds, for example. For a long time, families have been using soap-suds snow on the boughs of the Christmas tree; but this same idea can be used in other decorations. Frothy, thick, non-melting snow can be used on almost any surface, and it washes off easily with a sponge and hot water. It stays put for days.

Start your children off with a cake decorating tube or a pastry brush and a big bowl of suds-snow. They can even make the snow themselves, using lots of soap (or detergent) and very little water. Whip this mixture with a rotary beater or electric mixer till the consistency of the suds is like meringue.

It can be daubed onto a window pane in little fluffy tufts in the shape of a Christmas tree or in letters that spell out "Merry Christmas." Add a glittering sequin (this can be bought at the five-and-ten-cent store) to each tuft for extra sparkle, or cut out tiny circles of silver foil for trim.

Another idea the children will enjoy is making a miniature tree for the dinner table. Scout around for a twig that has a lot of little shoots. Then set up this tiny tree on a platter, using modeling clay to hold it upright. Spread



soapsuds snow on the branches—maybe tinted suds this time, done by adding a few drops of vegetable coloring to the mixture. Now trim the tree with shiny little beads or berries or miniature cake candles. A big spoon or spatula makes a good snow-spreader. After the first layer of snow has dried, spoon on another layer for a special frothy effect.

Dried seed pods and cones can be dipped into the snowsuds to fill a bowl for the coffee table. Drift snowsuds onto the evergreen branches that decorate the mantel. For a snowy candle, see page 23.

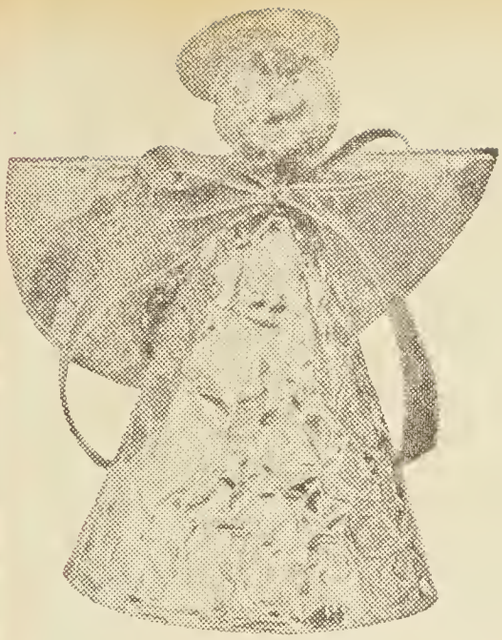
Another pretty snow idea is to set your punch bowl for your Christmas party or club meeting in a drift of glittering snow. Cut a circle of heavy cardboard allowing a six-inch margin around the punchbowl. Place the empty bowl in the center and crush a sheet of white tissue paper around the margin to serve as a base for the snow. Straight pins stuck into the paper will hold it securely to the cardboard. Next, make the snow and drift the suds on the tissue with a large spoon until it is completely covered and the bowl is banked. Then sprinkle a bit of silver glitter dust on the wet snow to catch the candlelight.

When the family is ready to wrap gifts, remember these four basic rules: (1) lay the gift wrapping paper, face down, on a clean, flat surface. Place the box, upside down, on the paper. Try to position the box on the paper so the design will show to the best advantage when wrapping is completed.

(2) cut the paper so that it is wide enough to go around the box and overlap 2 or 3 inches. The paper should also be cut to extend slightly more than one-half the depth of the box at both ends. (3) fold the paper up and around, overlap and seal with a sticker or with tape. (4) fold top ends down tightly and make diagonal creases at the sides and then fold sides in. Seal ends with tape or sticker.

Here are two ideas for children's packages: Wrap one package in bright red paper. Make a Santa's mustache and fringed beard on the face of the red paper with bits of cotton or white crepe paper. Tape on a tiny red tree ball for a nose and cut large white paper ovals for eyes. Cut a jaunty cap from two pieces of red paper—paste edges together and trim with more white crepe paper or cotton.

Top another of your children's gifts with a Christmas candle. Stick a tiny birthday candle into a marshmallow and tape to the package. Add a colored life saver to the marshmallow for a handle.



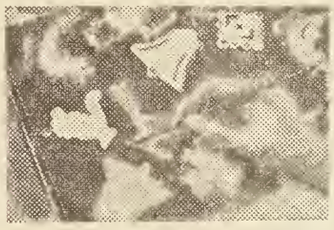
Christmas Cherubs

The cunning Christmas angel above can be used so attractively in your Christmas decorations this year: Hang them on a blue and silver Christmas tree; make a blue and silver (or pink and silver) arrangement on an occasional table using candles and a complete angel chorus; use silver angels in your centerpiece for Christmas dinner.

And they're so easily made. You need the following materials: cone-shaped drinking cups (the kind used at drug store soda fountains), small Christmas tree balls, cardboard, ribbon, aluminum foil, cellophane tape. Then follow these four simple steps:

(1) Cover cone-shaped drinking cups with foil. Cut off tip to leave hole for head. (2) Cover small glass Christmas tree ball or round lollypop with foil to make head of angel. To cover, place ball in center of an 8-inch square of foil. Gather foil up over ball and twist excess foil into a long "tail." Insert tail into hole in inverted drinking cup.

(3) Cut 2-inch circle from cardboard and cover with foil. Attach to head with cellophane tape to make halo. (4) Cut 61-inch semi-circle from cardboard. Cover with foil. Punch two holes near center of straight edge of semi-circle. Run ribbon through holes and tie around neck of angels.



Paintbrush Cookies

The Betty Crocker kitchens have just come across the most interesting new cooky decorating idea for Christmas. Here it is:

Paint your sugar cookies with a brush and egg yolk paint before baking. Just mix one egg yolk, ¼ tsp. water and the desired food coloring together and you're ready to paint delicate sugar cookies with your own original designs. When you take them out of the oven, they're ready to eat or use to decorate your centerpiece. And you'd better make a few extra, because they're so pretty all your guests will want to take some home.

Christmas trees with colorful decorations, wreaths and birds will fairly come to life with these bright and shimmering colors. Use red, green, yellow, blue, or any other food coloring you choose. They'll all come out perfect and shining. Best of all, this new idea in decorating takes little time and the children will love dabbling with it.

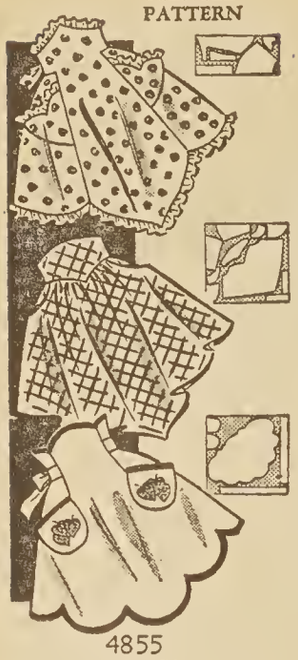
Here's a good basic sugar cooky recipe you might try—unless you have a favorite:

¾ cup soft shortening (part butter)
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. flavoring (lemon or vanilla)
2½ cups sifted flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

(Continued on Page 24)

Each One Yard 35"

PRINTED PATTERN



4855
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MEDIUM

4855. Jiffy cut Printed Pattern includes all three types and each style takes just one-yard 35-inch fabric. Misses' Medium Size only. Applique transfer included.

4603
SIZES
12—20

4603. Plan a whole wardrobe with this one pattern. Vary neckline—high or low; add a tie-on peblum or tricky bow. Misses' Sizes 12-20. Size 16 takes 3 yards 35-inch fabric.

9391
SIZES
12—42

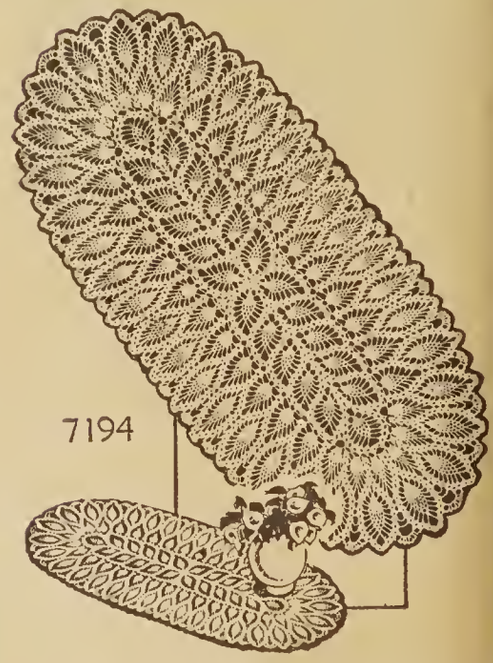
9391. This will be your favorite "gadabout" dress all summer long and it's a Printed Pattern to make sewing it a joy. Misses' Sizes 12-42. Size 16 takes 5 yards 35-inch.

Send THIRTY-FIVE CENTS (in coins, no stamps) for each DRESS pattern (above) to: Carolina Farmer, P. O. Box 42, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, New York. Add 25c for Fall-Winter fashion book. Send TWENTY-FIVE CENTS (in coins) for each NEEDLECRAFT pattern (at right) to: Carolina Farmer, 243, Needlecraft Service, P. O. Box 162, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N. Y. Add five cents for first-class mailing. Send additional 25c for Needlework Catalogue.

The Sewing Room

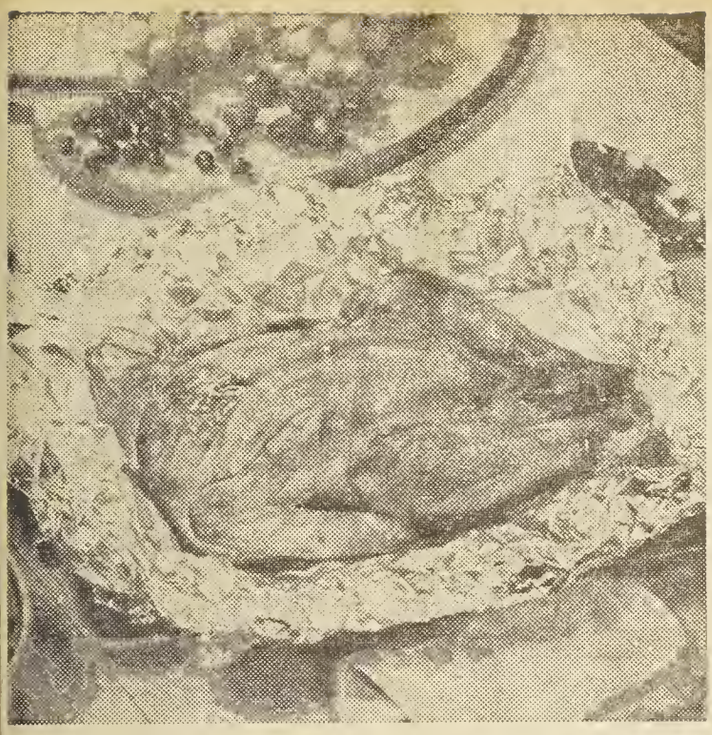
818

818. "Now I lay me down . . ." childhood's best-known prayer embroidered into this cozy baby quilt. The little sleeping figures keep baby company in dreamland. Diagrams, embroidery and applique transfers.



7194

7194. Only TWO balls of No. 30 cotton required to make 28-inch scarf in popular pineapple pattern, but you may make it in any length needed. Crochet a scarf and matching mats for a luncheon set.



Turkey Talk

IT'S THE stuffing that counts in that Christmas turkey you're planning to cook for your family, because most folks just naturally expect a flavor-some stuffing or dressing along with their roast fowl.

There are no definite hard and fast rules for making stuffings, but the U. S. Department of Agriculture specialists can make the "stuffing job" a bit easier for you this year if you'll follow their tips.

Most all poultry stuffings, these specialists tell us, are built on the same general pattern. First there is a starchy base: bread crumbs — white, brown, corn — or flaky boiled rice, or well-seasoned mashed potatoes. Second, melted butter or some good flavored fat is added for richness. Then comes the seasoning.

Among the herbs, savory, sweet marjoram, thyme, and sage are favorites. There are also vegetables used for seasoning, such as celery, parsley, and onions. Other interesting additions are nuts, oysters, mushrooms, dried apricots and prunes, raisins, sausage, diced salt pork, fried chips, and tart apple cubes candied with sugar.

As a starting point, USDA specialists suggest the following good proportions to keep in mind for the stuffing: 1 cup of bread crumbs or boiled rice; 1 to 1½ tablespoons of fat — depending on how much natural fat the bird contains; about ¼ cup chopped celery and parsley; 1 very little onion; and seasoning herbs to taste—always in moderation, just enough for bouquet.

Suit the amount of onions and the herb seasoning to the other ingredients, toning them down when the delicately flavored onions or mushrooms are among the ingredients.

In planning the turkey stuffing, it's a good idea to figure the quantity of starchy base material needed on the basis of the weight of the dressed turkey. For every pound of turkey, count 1 cup of crumbs; then, if the bird weighs 10 pounds or less, subtract 1 cup from the total. If the bird weighs more than 10 pounds, subtract 2 cups from the total. Since rice stuffing swells considerably, use 1 cup less of boiled rice than of bread crumbs in any recipe.

Over The Lines

with Becky

'. . he knew how to keep Christmas well'

Most all of us remember Tiny Tim's cheerful, heart-warming little toast, "God Bless us every one," in the dearest of all Christmas stories, "A Christmas Carol." But from the blurred echoes of my childhood, I keep hearing another quote from that wonderful tale of Yuletide love: "It was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well."

'Tis funny that I remember this, for it's been such a long time since first I heard these lines that I can't remember who said them in the story—nor yet of whom they were spoken. But they keep coming back—possibly because this was my first meeting with the expression "keeping Christmas."

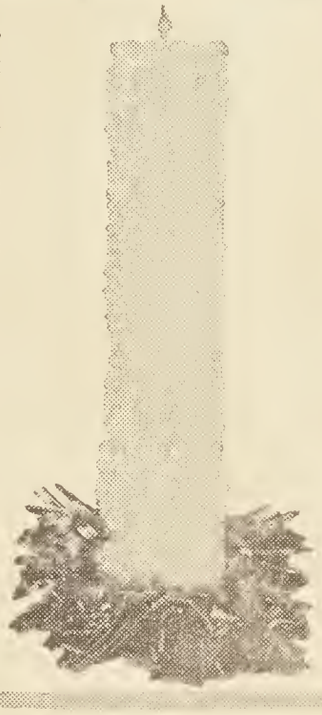
Those are endearing words to me. "Keeping Christmas" means a lot of things to all of us: bountiful family dinners, sparkling Christmas trees, holiday visits to those we love, a time of good-will, peace. And then there are those special memories of traditions held sacred to our own particular families.

Keeping Christmas in its fullest meaning, it seems to me, would be decking the halls with happiness boughs throughout the year—lighting the lights of the Christmas tree of love in every home on every evening—basking in the brilliance of the Christmas star eternally—giving the gifts of warmth wherever they are needed—hanging the holly of understanding perpetually—and kissing the lips of joy under the mistletoe of good-will all the time.

To each of you I send the warmest of Christmas greetings. Still quoting Charles Dickens: May the goose hang high in your home—may you keep Christmas well —and may God bless you everyone.

Pink Snow Candle

HERE'S a new candle idea: Use pink snow sparkling with glitter dust to transform your plain white candles into glamorous Christmas decorations. Here's how: Mix lots of soap (or detergent) with a little water and whip with an electric or rotary beater until it's thick as merinque. Tint with pink vegetable coloring. Fill a pastry tube with the suds-snow, and squeeze a design onto the candle. While the suds are still wet, sprinkle with glitter.



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● MISCELLANEOUS

DO YOU HAVE an old auto, motorcycle, truck, steam tractor, or old N. C. license tags stored away? Highest prices paid for early models. Write price wanted and complete information to J. J. Malpass, Burgaw, N. C.

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The Carolina Farmer

REACHES 124,200

North Carolina Farm

FAMILIES THIS MONTH

The Koontz's

(From Page 11)

he and his father sold eggs. Koontz still sells eggs, but now he hauls them by truck.

Sugar-cured hams are just a by-product of his live-hog enterprise, but they've gained him fame in far places.

He sells all the live pigs he can, and butchers the rest. Last year he fattened and killed 40 to 50 hogs.

One meat storage house is part of a building that housed only a kitchen a couple of generations ago, and here Koontz has a tremendous double-door refrigerator and meat-market type freezer. Entering the building, he pointed out that electricity has made two important changes in his meat business.

First, he can kill shoats anytime of the year he wants to and put the meat in his freezer. Secondly, it brings him running water to use in dressing hogs.

Koontz is one of the original members of Davie Electric Membership Co-op, and he recalled that before it was organized, the lack of power forced him to feed his shoats until winter. He would have preferred to kill them young and save his feed.

Carefully lifting a dough tray from a peg on the wall, Koontz related that his grandfather mixed bread in it during the Civil War. It was standard equipment for soldiers. For comparison, Koontz slid back the cover to a freezer laden with vegetables (a watermelon included) from his summer garden.

"First man to get electricity out here—September 28, 1939," he declared proudly. That was the day when power first came through the lines of Davie Electric Co-op, and 17 years is a long time to remember a date. But Koontz has a talent for remembering the more important things of farm life.

Cookie Recipe

(From Page 21)

Mix well shortening, sugar, eggs, flavoring. Sift together flour, baking powder, salt and stir in. Chill at least 1 hour. Roll out ¼ of dough at a time ⅛ inch thick on lightly floured board. Keep rest of dough chilled. Cut in desired shapes. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Paint with Egg Yolk Paint using individual brushes for each color. Bake at 400 degrees 6 to 8 minutes until set but now brown. Makes about 4 dozen.

HENPECKED

A nursery-school teacher related this story. For several days the 4-year-olds had been playing house. Two little girls cooked the meals inside the house, washed the dishes, swept the floor, made the bed, bathed and cared for the baby, frequently screaming to one lonesome boy sitting outside the door on a building block. Whenever he moved, they yelled at him. Frequently they handed him grocery orders, demanded that he do this or that, never permitting him choice or a voice in anything. On the third day, with tears in his eyes, the young fellow appealed to the teacher, "I'm tired just being a daddy and being bossed by those girls. Please make them let me be the baby once in a while."

* * *

WISE CRACKS

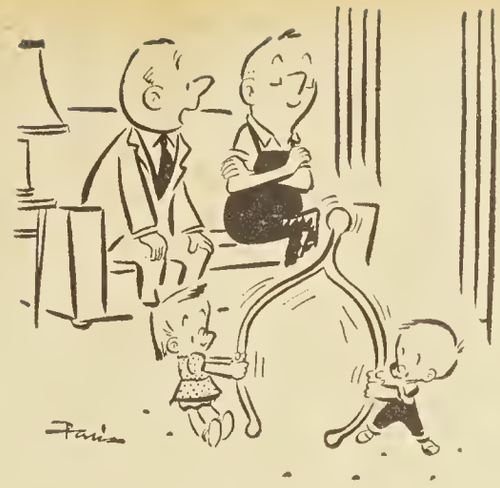
. . . The only relaxation some people get these days is waiting for the car ahead to make a left-hand turn.

. . . Think—there must a harder way to do this job.

. . . A woman will look into a mirror any time except when she's about to pull out of a parking place.

. . . Many a child is spoiled because you can't spank two grandmothers.

. . . Winter: When bare limbs are on trees.



"Just what do you feed your chickens?"

Hale!

SURPRISE

The colt trotted up to the bookmaker on the race course and neighed, "I want $2 to win on myself in the third."

"What!" screamed the bookie.

"Surprised to learn I can talk?" asked the horse.

"No," said the bookmaker, "I just don't think you can win."

ELECTRIC SWITCHES

Two little boys, in from the country for a visit to their grandmother, wandered down the street to inspect the brand-new school that was being finished. They found two electricians working in one of the rooms.

"Whatcha doin'?" inquired one of the little visitors.

"We're just putting in the new electric switches, sonny," replied one of the workmen.

"Gosh," said the other boy, after a pause, "I'm sure glad we still got our old country school."

* * *

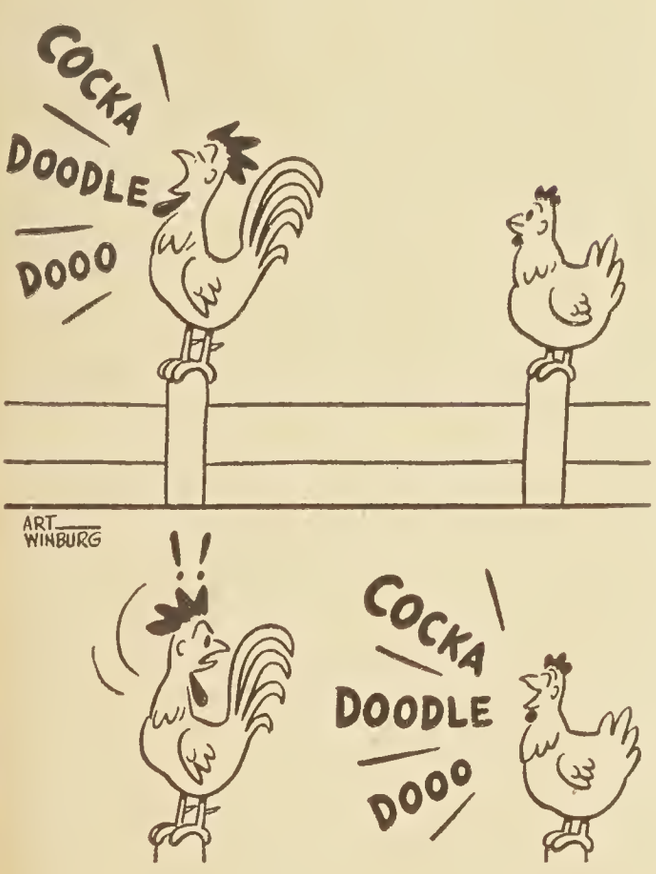
CORRECT TIME

Every morning for years, at about 11:30, the telephone operator in a small Widwestern town received a call from a man asking the exact time.

One day the operator summoned up nerve to ask him why the regularity.

"I'm foreman of the Acme Nut and Bolt Works," he explained. "Every day I have to blow the whistle at noon so I call you to get the exact time."

The operator giggled. "That's really funny," she said. "All this time we've been setting our clock by your whistle!"



"Oh, no you don't. First, shave, put on your shirt and shoes and comb your hair."

Peanuts

Writing in Carolina Power and Light Company's house organ, a former public relations man for a New York utility proudly points out that "ECAP" operates on a small budget, less than $2 million a year.

ECAP is short for Electric Companies Advertising Program, and it is supported by CP&L and 125 other electric utilities. It puts those big ads in national magazines and signs them: "America's Independent Electric Light and Power Companies."

As the author of the CP&L article points out, the purpose of the ads is two-fold:

1. to improve the public attitude toward the business-managed electric companies.

2. through such improvement of public opinion, to discourage further government encroachment in the electric business.

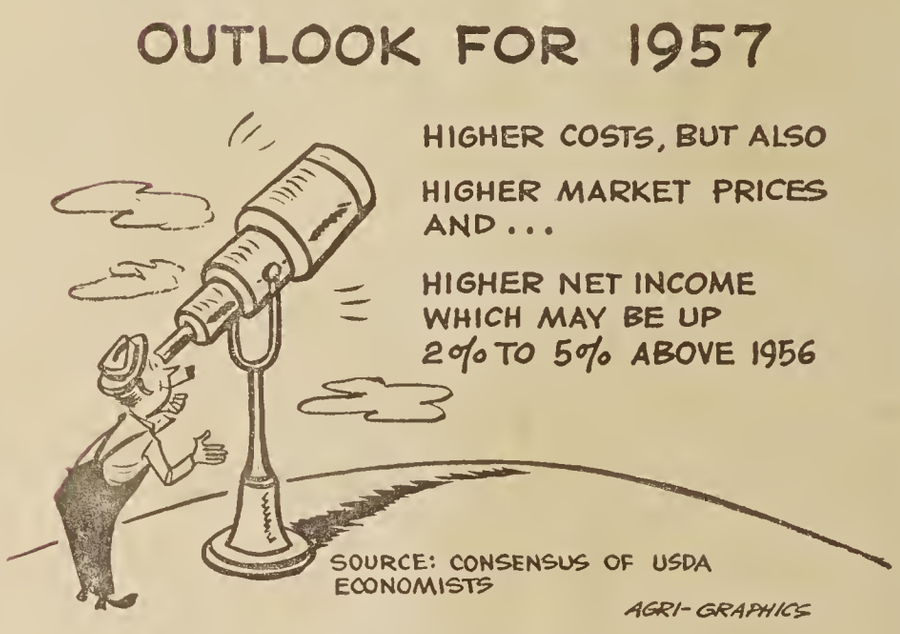
We don't agree with some of the terms, but we won't argue with them. We guess CP&L knows what it does with ratepayers' money.

Admittedly, a couple of million dollars isn't much to commercial utilities, but add another $50 million which the power interests spend on lobbying and otherwise purchasing influence, and it looks respectable. We'll bet that ratepayers would like to see that amount shaved from their bills, or that CP&L employees would just as soon see their company slip a little something extra into their pay envelopes.

In fairness to the public, the commercial companies who promote propaganda campaigns should pay for them out of profits—not pass the cost back to their ratepayers and employees.

The very people who pay for CP&L propaganda are the ones who benefit the most from what CP&L calls "government encroachment," and what we call *public power development.* The farther away you live from public power projects, the higher your electric rate becomes. Commercial companies that operate near "the yardstick," as CP&L does, feel plenty of pressure to keep their rates within reason.

No wonder they're against the public's "encroachment" on the public's rivers.



TARHEEL VIEWS

By William T. Crisp

Rural electrification is like what Sir Thomas Mallory said about the mountain: "It is there." You just can't deny it when you travel, as often I do, across North Carolina.

It is there in the gaunt poles and neat wires ribbing the rural horizon. It is there in the thousands of men, women and children who annually go to their member meetings. It is there in the men and trucks busily hanging a transformer.

And it is there in the handsome headquarters buildings, proudly proclaiming cooperative success.

In recent months I have visited over a dozen of our 32 cooperatives. Along with 5,000 other folks, I tasted sweet country ham at Davie Electric's annual meeting in Mocksville. I ate barbecued chicken with Edgecombe-Martin's board at Tarboro, and barbecued pork with the employees and directors of Piedmont Electric at Hillsboro.

At Dobson I drank a coke with Surry-Yadkin's board of directors. And at Lexington Mrs. Gibson, the office manager, patiently showed me the billing activities of Davidson Electric.

At all these places—and in all these pleasant situations—rural electrification is there.

But it is there in many unseen, unseeable ways too. From the most humble rural family, with only lights and a radio, to the highly ornate halls of Congress, rural electrification is a vast, complex undertaking. It remains, nevertheless, basically what it started out being—a human institution, responding to human need and want and, most importantly, being conducted by the same humans who are serviced by it.

In this respect it always has been and always will be unique. In this respect it always has been and always will be warm. The warmth is *there.*

I know. I have experienced its presence many times. And always I come away with a good feeling—the type of feeling that some folks get only around Christmas time.

And that reminds me: On behalf of *all* of you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to *each* of you.

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